

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 1–12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Japan 2001-355843 (JP'843) or Japan 10-292919 (JP'919) in view of Japan 1-305227 (JP'227). Claims 1–4 and 8–12 have been cancelled. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended. Claims 13–18 have been added.

Neither JP'843 nor JP'919 nor JP'227 nor the combination thereof teach all the limitations of claims 13 and 18. More specifically, neither JP'843 nor JP'919 nor JP'227 nor the combination thereof teach “an evaporator dish cleaning mode to clean soil on the evaporator dish by pumping a cleaning liquid into the evaporator dish and heating it with the evaporating dish heating unit for a predetermined period of time.” In regards to JP'843 and JP'919 the Examiner admitted that these references do not any type of cleaning mode. In regards to JP'227, JP'227 teaches using water and steam in a dishwashing mode where steam or boiling water is shot out through the nozzles (2) to clean the entire heating chamber (1). This differs from the present application in that in the present application, the evaporating dish cleaning mode is a mode that cleans the evaporator dish by heating a cleaning solution that is pumped into the evaporating dish. Thus, JP'227 does not teach an evaporating dish cleaning mode. Further, JP'227 does not teach multiple cleaning modes and a signal input unit to implement any one of the multiple cleaning modes as taught by claim 18. Therefore, JP'227 does not teach all the limitations of claims 13 and 18.

Claims 5-7 and 14-17 depend either directly or indirectly on claim 13 and claim 19 depends on claim 18, thus, all arguments pertaining to claims 13 and 18 are equally applicable to these claims and are herein incorporated by reference.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 35996.

Respectfully submitted,

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